

# NEWS RELEASE

Pacific Northwest Region - Colville National Forest  
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## *Food Storage Order Reminder*

**Colville, WA-** As summer recreation moves into full swing, forest officials would like to remind visitors about proper food storage practices, in order to reduce the potential for human-wildlife conflicts. The Colville National Forest has had a food storage order in effect since 1989. The requirements described in the order apply to all Colville National Forest System lands and campgrounds, including dispersed camping areas.

Bears are very intelligent animals. They will repeatedly revisit a site where they have obtained food in the past. Over time, an animal that has found food at a campsite(s) may learn to associate the presence of humans with a food reward. Such bears tend to lose their fear of people and become increasingly bold and aggressive. Usually, these animals end up being destroyed by state wildlife authorities. The old saying “a fed bear is a dead bear” is all too often true.

The Colville National Forest requires campers to store all food, beverages, garbage, and other attractants in an approved, animal-resistant container or hard-sided vehicle when their camp is left unattended, and at night when they are asleep. Food should never be brought into a tent. Hikers camping away from their vehicles should suspend their food from a tree branch at least ten feet off the ground and four feet from the tree trunk. Forest visitors are often surprised to learn that “other attractants” means anything that has a scent such as candles, soap, deodorant, or cosmetics. If you can smell it, it could attract a bear. Pet food, un-cleaned barbeques, and garbage are all powerful wildlife attractants.

For more information contact your local ranger station or visit [www.fs.usda.gov/colville/](http://www.fs.usda.gov/colville/)

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